United Nations S/2000/825

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 August 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 19 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you the attached letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs dated 18 August 2000 concerning a further act of aggression committed on 12 August 2000 by United States and British aircraft, which took off from the territory of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, against the town of Samawah. The attack was directed against the Railway Bureau and resulted in injuries to four civilians and in substantial damage to the Railway Bureau building. The Minister holds the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully responsible for these acts of aggression and also affirms the well-established right of Iraq to take the necessary measures to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for these acts of aggression as a result of which four civilian officials of the railway were injured.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-61838 (E) 240800 240800

Annex to the identical letters dated 19 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 14 August 2000, I wish to inform you that United States and British aircraft, not content with their crime of 11 August 2000 in shelling a residential district in the town of Samawah in Muthanna governorate, returned on the following day to complete their vile crime by shelling the Railway Bureau in Samawah, injuring four innocent Iraqi civilians. The details of this vile crime are given below.

At 2345 hours on Saturday, 12 August 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft, coming from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti airspace, flew 24 sorties, including 16 from Saudi Arabian airspace supported by an AWACS aircraft from inside S di Arabian airspace, and 8 from Kuwaiti airspace supported by an E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. These aircraft overflew the Ushbayjah, Shinafiyah, Taqtaqanah, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Rumaythah, Najaf, Artawi, Rifa'i, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Shatrah and Akhdir areas and shelled service installations, namely the Railway Bureau of Muthanna governorate, injuring four innocent citizens who were railway officials working on the premises, namely:

1. Talib Abd al-Amir
2. Sabah Jibar Kazim
3. Ra'd Khaz'al Karim
4. Sa'd Mun'athir Abbud

The attack also caused substantial damage to the building of the Railway Bureau.

This brings to 18,669 the total number of armed sorties flown to date by British and United States aircraft from Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti airspace since the brutal United States and British attack of 17 December 1998. These sorties have resulted in 311 civilian fatalities and 931 other casualties.

This attack is a continuation of the hostility practised by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq with the aim of undermining its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and of systematically and deliberately killing Iraqis and devastating the country's infrastructure and civilian installations in total disregard of all humanitarian values, the principles of the United Nations and the United Nations Charter, international law and established international custom all of which assert the rejection of the use or threat of force against the integrity or independence of any State. Furthermore, the support provided by the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti regimes to these aircraft is regarded as an act of ongoing hostility towards Iraq directed against the lives of innocent Iraqis and intended to destroy their property. These two regimes are participating directly in the aggression against Iraq through their support for the air attacks by United States and British aircraft, and through the facilities they extend to those aircraft which take off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The support for the United States and the United Kingdom provided by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait has made them key participants in the aggression, and they bear international responsibility for such hostile action against the Republic of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, while holding the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait fully liable internationally for their hostile and provocative actions and for the resulting damage, reserves its full and well-established right, conferred by the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international practice, to take the necessary measures to defend the inviolability and integrity of Iraqi territory, and the safety of its people, and to demand compensation, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, for the human casualties and the material and moral damage inflicted on it as a result of such hostilities.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq